evaluation

result = evolution

Mission:

International Training Course
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SOLIDARITY TRACKS

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Magazine

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Editorial

The Training Course 'Mission: evaluation, result: evolution' is a project organized by Solidarity Tracks from 24th June to 4th July of 2013. It is supported by Youth in Action Program from European Commission through the Hellenic Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation.

Thirty five participants from nineteen European youth organizations from sixteen countries met in Lefkada, Greece, with a clear objective: create an educational tool directed to youth leaders and youth organizations which will allow them to improve the evaluation and monitoring of their non formal education projects. This was the serious and hard part of the training but, also, we had time to share unforgettable moments. Different workshops, energizers, games, free time, trip around the island or intercultural dinner are just some of the examples of the activities we did during the ten days of training course. In this magazine, you will find how was the process of creating the educational tool through the workshops and the intercultural exchange.
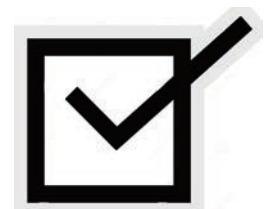
This Training Course started with energizers to know each other. The objective of the first game was to learn and remember the names of everyone. Everyone was standing in a circle and the trainer started saying his name and showing his symbol. After him, the next participant had to say the name of the previously one, his name and he should make a new symbol. This action was repeated untill the last participant.

In next activity, the trainer presented the program and agenda about the whole training course and all the topics that will be included. In this introduction activity participants shared their experience about their work in the NGO and they wrote their hopes, contribution and fears about the project.

Later, trainer held a presentation about Youthpass and the eight key competences. He explained the meaning and use of the Youthpass certificate.

Also, it was presented the 'Diary of the Training', the evaluation tool method used during the seminar. Diary is an easy and practical tool where the participants could write their process and development during the training. It has several parts: learning objectives, people that can help you in your development, Youthpass, skills and competences. This activity was icebreaking, participants got to know each other and the trainer directed the group in the way the course will be held. After this introduction, the other activities followed up.

Learning activities

The participants had several presentations, workshops and group reflections which helped them to get a lot of knowledge. This are the most important for them

What, Why and How?

It was the 2nd day of seminar and the first serious theme appeared. In the view of the participants: "Practically, we were thrown in the middle of the jungle to understand the idea of what evaluation is and its meaning."

This activity was aimed to have an idea about the knowledge of the participants about the topic. Participants had to answer two questions: What is evaluation and Why we evaluate.

This was realized through a hard brainstorming in different working groups in order to get the points of view of participants.

Through conversations, debates and teamwork, the different groups shared their ideas with eloquent pictures, core essential or notion lists related to the specific questions.

After, when participants understood what evaluation is and why we evaluate, a new question came into the working space. Participants started to work on How we can evaluate.

Questionnaire

On the 7th day of the seminar, the participants had one session about the questionnaires as a tool that can be used during the process of evaluation. The main purpose of this session was to allow participants to develop the correct techniques to write and structure a useful questionnaire.

Divided in four groups, they had to analyze a "bad questionnaire" which contained non appropriate and wrong formulated questions.

Then, they discussed in groups, the participants pointed out the mistakes in the "Bad questionnaire" and remade the questions in the better way.

After, each small working group presented the new questionnaire to the whole group.

The trainer finalized the session emphasizing the good aspects of the questionnaires and showed good examples of questionnaires as a tool for an evaluation process.

Visit of Cosmina

On the fifth day, the participants had an extraordinary opportunity to meet with Cosmina, a Romanian girl who is doing an European Voluntary Service for 10 month in Solidarity Tracks.

Her main task during her EVS in Lefkada is to lead workshops with Lefkadian children about environment and recycling, creating handmade objects. She made a presentation about her EVS and about the obstacles she faced during the beginning of her work with kids.

As well, she gave the examples of good practices focusing on the difference of the evaluation process among grownups and kids with emphasizing to the qualitative and quantitative approach.

In the last day of seminar, Cosmina came back. In this second visit, she presented the project 'Green Oclock', a magazine focused in information about sustainable development.

Another activity of the seminar was to plan an 'evaluation matrix'.

The trainer made a presentation about the topic, so the participants understood completely this tool. The presentation covered several parts of the matrix: project objectives, indicators, type of indicators, source of data, sample, and methods of data collecting.

Indicators are ingredients which say if the objective is achieved or not.

There are three **types of the indicators**: qualitative, quantitative and efficiency indicators.

Source of data is a store from where we can find precise information about what is planned to evaluate.

Samples are the participants who will be evaluated.

Methods of data collecting are a way of gathering valid figures and information about the project objectives.

Later on, the whole team was divided in four groups. The groups got a real case study and had to create their own example of matrix in 45 minutes. After that, each group presented their outcomes and the whole participants discussed the results and provided comments and notifications.

Project name:
Evaluation goal:

Project objective	Indicators	Type of indicators	Source of data	Sample (who)	Methods of data collecting	Criteria

It was the 8th day of the journey together as a team and they arrived to one last big stop at the feet of the mountain. The group still had to climb to reach the peak, the final goal.

This stop was not anything like recess. First, they cheked their maps to see if they were still on the right path. They certainly had to regroup and to check out the contents of their backpacks to see if they lost something on the way, what new things they had found and if they needed anything else essencial for the climb. Or, maybe, they had to throw out things that were not going to be useful for them and which could just slow down in anyway the ascent to the top.

Once the backpacks were recognized and optimized, they joined the freshly formed travelling groups. Each of these groups had a different member for different tasks. They had a tracker, a map specialist, a lead climber, and of course the sherpa for carrying the weight.

After finding the suitable track path that each group was going to follow on this final attempt to conquer the big mountain, everyone wished each other good luck and they went in hope and good faith that in the end everyone are going to met each other on the top.

Youthpass

Last night in Lefkada, it was organized a special dinner with a happy ending. After the food was eaten, trainers and organizers gave to each participant the Youthpass, which certificate their participation in the seminar and the skills and abilities they acquired during those days.

Colorful tables with drinks, sweets and food. Traditional music and presentations about countries… High mood.

The intercultural night started with Laszlo playing the piano. Right after it, the host country, Greece, came with its presentations. Then, all the participants introduced their countries, their food and drinks. Everyone "tasted" the cultures. Participants from Tunisia, Serbia and Armenia had video materials. The participants from Ukraine organized an interesting and informative quiz.

All the participants discovered a lot of new things about other cultures and countries already having the desire to visit the countries that were being presented. The atmosphere became more and more friendly with people chatting, drinking and singing…
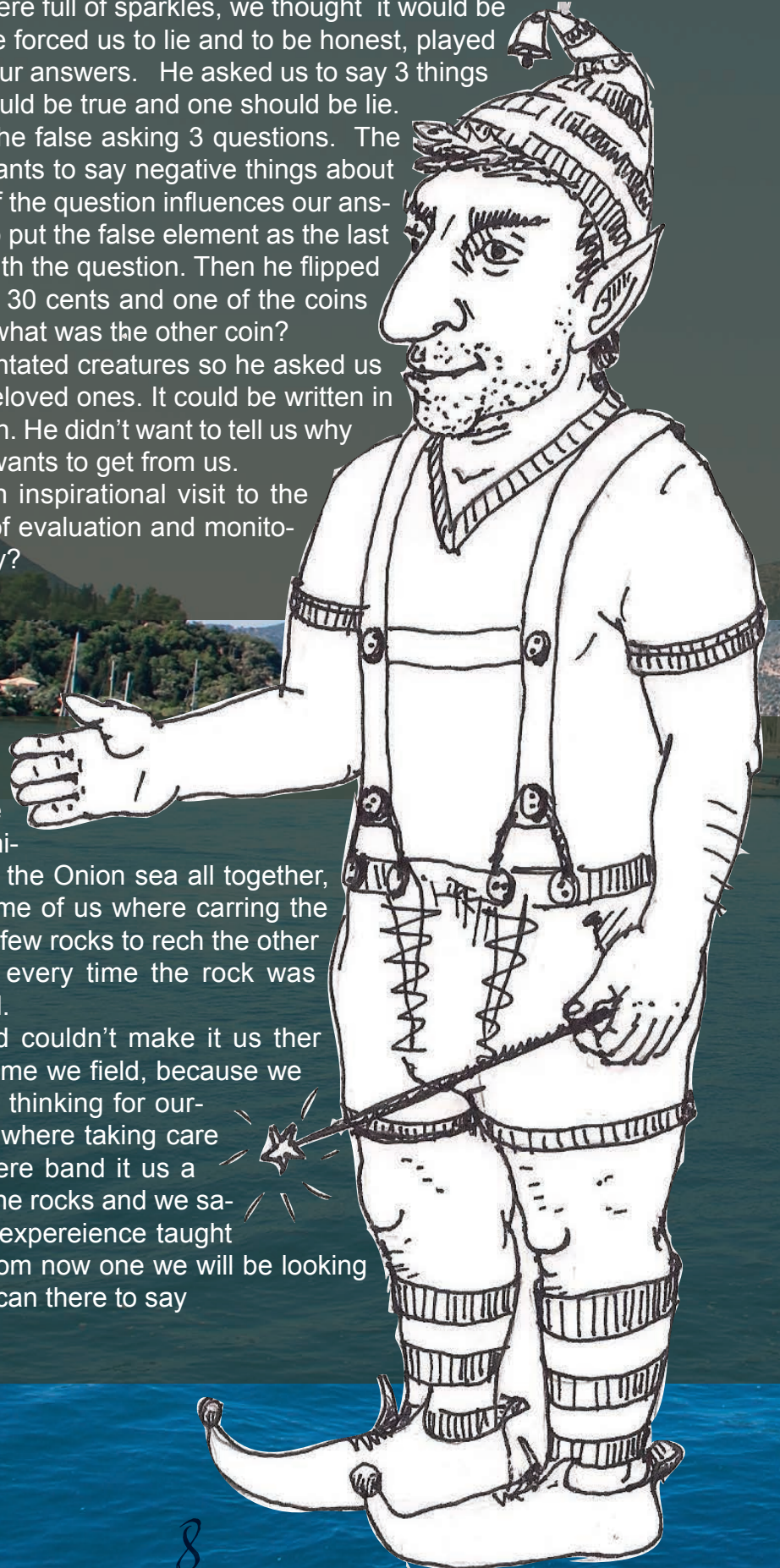
Besides the sessions, the participants have free time which they use for discovering Lefkas, going to swim, having fun in the evenings and use the time to get to know each other better thus going deeper into the participants' cultural background, professional experience, future plans and their daily life. The participants are excited to be in these groups and have this unique chance of enjoying non-formal education and setting network for further cooperation.

Tale of the psyco dwarf

Once upon a time there was a small dwarf from Bosnia who came in our community and wanted to play games with us. His eyes were full of sparkles, we thought it would be funny but it was not like that. He forced us to lie and to be honest, played with our minds and influenced our answers. He asked us to say 3 things about ourselves: 2 of them should be true and one should be lie. The observers should identify the false asking 3 questions. The dwarf proved us that nobody wants to say negative things about themselves and how the form of the question influences our answers. Half of the group chose to put the false element as the last as he hypnotically suggested with the question. Then he flipped 2 coins in front us in amount of 30 cents and one of the coins was not 20 cents. Can you tell what was the other coin?
The dwarfs are very family orientated creatures so he asked us to write a private letter to our beloved ones. It could be written in our native language or in English. He didn't want to tell us why but we think it's only magic he wants to get from us.
And his goodnight kiss was an inspirational visit to the world of drawing the meaning of evaluation and monitoring. And why he chose this way?

Chapter 2:
The return of the dwarf

The dwarf had a name.His name was SEA-DYCK. He was so cynical, this time he made us cross the Onion sea all together, we where all holding hands some of us where carring the women and we had too step on few rocks to rech the other side and he was verry mean, every time the rock was empty, he we drip off the ground.
The one that where left behind couldn't make it us ther where no rocks any-more first time we field, because we had no strategies ! and we just thinking for ourselfs !! but the second time we where taking care for each others and where where band it us a group making secure steps on the rocks and we safetly reach the shore, this hole expereience taught us how to think us group and from now one we will be looking back to the Onion Sea, and we can there to say

"Sea-DYCK, WE DID IT!"

Odysee Reloaded

INVOCATION

Tell me, Muse, of that team of many resources, who wandered far and wide, after sacking the holy citadel of Lefkas.

Many the teams whose cities they saw, whose ways they learned. Many the sorrows they suffered at sea, while trying to bring themself and their friends back alive, they managed to save them, because of their own wisdom, Tell us of these things, beginning where you will, Goddess, Daughter of Zeus.

PART I: TROUBLES BEGIN

The sun is shinning Lefkas, the bus is going Nidri, the team was on the bus. The folk was happy fellings because they can't immagine what's going to happen. But Gods prepared the magic, the magic that Zeus put blessings into.

They passed the island Lefkada to porto Katsiki, they passed the island Kefalonia, they stoped at island Itaca. The troubless begun.

PART II : TROUBLES EXPLODED

Triangle was made. The brave of the bravest Urban, the pretiest and purest of women Maria and wise of the wisest, o teacher Sidik, were there to be put in action, to trust their skills and highest intentions.

They swam in the nature, they enjoy the watters tourquise, too much we can say, the boat was missed, the captain heard not their desperate calls.

The phones were ringing, Mohamed, first got the news, they were cought in the island, no ferrie till evening next day.

The team could not hide the worries and happies, will there be workshops next day, no one to blame, the feelings were happy, happy to get the beauty of rest.

PART III : TROUBLES RESOLVED

Where gods are playing, and Zeus command, there flowers are raining, and lightness of being appear.

Sidik got the message of gods, he checked with Mohamed, Urban said yes, Maria was smile her beauty on all.

The price was negotiated no small no high, the decision of hiring a boat to carry those three, through waters unsettled, gods founded correct.

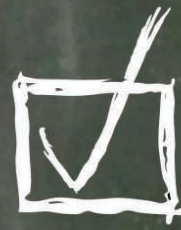They came back to Nidri the evening same day, Mohamed and his car were waiting, they took them to dinner directly.

EPILOGUE

No sacrifices are to much for things which are righteoues, gods than can help, Zeus will always bestow.

The tool of evulation the team is making will help, will help all of those who will use it. Thanks to Zeus and his friends.

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